

VOLUNTEER NEWS



Mecklenburg County
Park and Recreation
*The Natural Place
To Be...*



Our Volunteers are **AMAZING!**



In December 2017 – even with the Holidays! – 550 VOLUNTEERS gave more than 3900 hours of their valuable time during Park & Recreation events and programs!

We can't say it enough: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

FAIRY HOUSE FESTIVAL



LOCATION: LATTA PLANTATION NATURE PRESERVE

• 5226 Sample Road, Huntersville, 28078

DATE OF EVENT: Saturday, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

TIME OF EVENT: 10:00am-4:00pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

2 shifts: 9:00AM-1:00PM or 1:00PM-5:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 100

Come and help with this HUGE annual family festival at Latta Plantation Nature Center!

Activities include: a fairy house building contest, fairy-themed crafts and games, geocaching, nature hikes, storytelling and more!

Volunteers will assist with a variety of stations, including but not limited to: crafts, games, registration, hikes, directing parking, assisting with shuttles, preparing free popcorn, tending fire pits, etc.

Please dress for the weather! Volunteers are welcome to dress up in fairy themed clothing that is family-friendly. Lunch will be provided for the MORNING shift only.

***Please note that parking will be crowded – carpooling is strongly suggested for everyone!**

***Volunteers must be at least 12 years old to help with this event – any Volunteer under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times.**

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to sign up to help out!



SENIOR MARDI GRAS PARTY!

LOCATION: ARBOR GLEN OUTREACH CENTER

■ 1520 Clanton Road, Charlotte, 28208

DATE OF EVENT: Tuesday, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 9:00am-2:00pm

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 20



Celebrate "Fat Tuesday" at the Mardi Gras Party for seniors, with food, masks, beads and music!

Volunteers will assist with decorating, set-up and clean-up, serving food, and assisting seniors with games and Mardi Gras themed activities. Volunteers are welcome to dress in festive attire, but please wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to sign up for any or all of the time between 9:00am and 2:00pm – at least 2 hours, please!

***Volunteers should be at least 18 years old.**



CALLING ALL COACHES!

We are NOW enrolling for SPRING SPORTS:

Indoor Soccer, Track & Field, T-ball and Baseball!

To volunteer as a coach, you must join our Volunteer Program - if you would like to join please contact Volunteer Services at: VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov

As a Coach, you will need to be available for both Practices and Games/Meets. Most of the practices are during the week and the games/meets are usually on Saturday. To check out where our centers are located go to www.parkandrec.com.

***If you already know which sport, center, and/or age group you want to Coach – or if you have already contacted staff at your preferred Center – please make sure to list this information on your application.**

IMPORTANT: Registration for Spring sports ends on February 28 – **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR APPLICATION AND BACKGROUND CHECK APPROVAL COMPLETED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 23!**



We  our **Volunteers**





NEW! Natural Resources Volunteer Interest Sessions!

Are you interested in helping out at one of Park & Recreation's Nature Centers or Nature Preserves? Find out what it takes to Volunteer: tour the facility, review available Volunteer roles (such as special events, programming, stewardship, etc.) and expected commitments, and more!

Sunday, April 22 - 2:00pm-3:30pm at McDowell Nature Center, 15222 South York Road, 28278

CONTACT: Melissa.OLenick@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

Sunday, September 16 - 2:00pm-3:30pm at Latta Plantation Nature Center, 6211 Sample Road, 28078

CONTACT: Anjoli.Reynolds@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



Help out with Native Plants at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

6211 Sample Road, Huntersville, 28078

Every Thursday from March 8 through May 24 at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve – 9:00am-10:30am
Help our garden grow! Join us on Thursdays to care for our native plants as they grow and bloom through the spring. Please bring your hat, sunscreen and water bottle!

Volunteers must be at least age 10; volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult over age 21.

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov

or Anjoli.Reynolds@mecklenburgcountync.gov to sign up!



Learning, Impacting and Teaching (L.I.T) Program for Youth and Teens

LOCATION: WEST CHARLOTTE RECREATION CENTER

- 2401 Kendall Drive, Charlotte, 28216

DAYS/TIMES: Monday-Thursday, 3:30PM – 6:30PM each day

***THIS IS AN ONGOING OPPORTUNITY!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 1-3 hours each date, set schedule with staff

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2-3 per day

Volunteers are needed to help with:

Assisting youth and teens with homework in various subjects. This is a great opportunity to set a positive example for students!

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old for this ongoing opportunity, and must join the Volunteer Program.

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to register as a volunteer!



MONTHLY THERAPEUTIC RECREATION (TR) DANCE!

LOCATION: MARION DIEHL REC. CENTER

- 2219 Tyvola Road, 28210

DATE OF EVENT: 3RD FRIDAY EACH MONTH

- February 23 – *Sweetheart's Ball*
- March 16 – *Disney Party*
- April 20 – *Spring Fling*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 5:30PM TO 9:30PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 3 TO 10

The TR Dance is the place to be on the 3rd Friday of each month! Teens to adults with disabilities dance the night away at these FUN themed events. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up/tear down, serving food and drinks, and helping with crafts, games or other activities. **Volunteers must be at least 18 years old*



Opportunities for Groups



Park projects for Spring are HERE! Bring YOUR group out to help keep our Parks looking their best! We welcome any group, from businesses, churches, neighborhoods, fraternities/sororities, Scouts, students, civic groups, etc.

For more information on volunteering for any of our projects please contact:

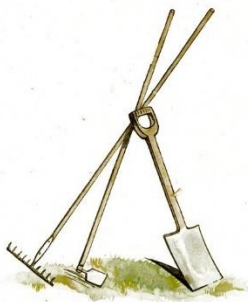
- **Lori Saylor** at 980-314-1045 Lori.Saylor@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov
- **Karen Howard** at 980-314-1046 Karen.Howard@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

SATURDAY PROJECTS

- Hours are 9am - Noon
- Volunteers 12 years old up are welcome!
- **All Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21.**
- You must RSVP to VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov . We need to know the number of volunteers you are bringing and the breakdown between Adults and Youths, if applicable.
- All of the projects are park maintenance and beautification projects, which may include mulching, weeding, pruning and clean-ups.
- All of these projects involve manual labor - at these specific projects we do not have opportunities for individuals who are unable to perform physical labor.
- All you need to bring are a pair of gloves, a water bottle and LOTS OF ENERGY!!
- Please go to www.parkandrec.com to see where these parks and greenways are located. Once you get to the home page click on either the Parks or the Greenways tab.

SPRING 2018 PROJECT DATES:

- Saturday, March 3 at Latta Plantation Nature Center
- Saturday, March 10 at Park Road Park
- Saturday, March 17 at Jetton Park
- Saturday, March 24 at TBD
- Saturday, April 7 at Park Road Park
- Saturday, April 14 at R.L Smith Park
- Saturday, April 21 at Briarcreek Greenway
- Saturday, April 28 at TBD in South Region
- Saturday, May 5 at McDowell Nature Center
- Saturday, May 12 at Eva Barber Park
- Saturday, May 19 at Park Road Park



MECKLENBURG COUNTY YOUTH TRACK & FIELD MEETS

LOCATION: JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY – IRWIN BELK COMPLEX

- 500 Summit Avenue, Charlotte, 28216

DATES OF EVENTS:

- Sunday, April 15
- Saturday, April 21
- Sunday, April 29
- Saturday, May 5
- Saturday, May 12



TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **Saturdays** 8:00am-3:00pm, **Sundays** 12:00-7:00pm

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **25-30 each date**

The Youth Track & Field program is an annual youth sports offering from Mecklenburg County, serving over 500 participants ages 4 to 18 years old in 2017. Athletes compete in developmentally appropriate disciplines in a recreational setting, to promote a love of athletics!

Volunteers are needed to assist with a **wide variety of tasks** during each meet, including: event set-up and tear-down; clerking tent (athlete check-in); hiping tent (distributing numbers to athletes, etc.); warm-up areas; starting line; finish line volunteers and timing/finish line runner; and helping with various events that need additional preparation including long-jump and softball throw. We will also need volunteers to: assist the announcer, act as ushers for the athletes and runners for additional support; and to be Hospitality Assistants, keeping hospitality stations stocked with water and refreshments for athletes, officials and volunteers (ability to lift 30+ pounds on and off trailers is required for Hospitality Assistants).

***Volunteers must be at least 12 years old for these events – ANY volunteer under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times. Please wear comfortable clothing/shoes, and bring a lunch, sunscreen, hat and water bottle – snacks/refreshments will be provided.**

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to register as a volunteer!

GET READY FOR SENIOR GAMES & SILVER ARTS!

Beginning in mid-April and continuing through the first week of June, hundreds of active seniors will be taking part in the annual Senior Games and Silver Arts competitions!

Sports will include: Cycling, Golf, Track & Field, Badminton, Softball, Archery, Swimming, Bowling, Table Tennis, Basketball, Tennis, Pickleball and more! A Performing Arts Showcase will be held on May 22.

Please refer to the chart on the next page for events, locations, dates and times!



We are seeking friendly, upbeat volunteers to assist local older active adults that are participating in the 2018 Charlotte Mecklenburg Senior Games! Under the guidance of Event Managers, volunteers will be responsible for the following tasks for each event: Set up, welcoming participants, registration, monitoring events, rules enforcement, awards presentations, breakdown and basic clean up. **Volunteers must be at least age 12 – anyone under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times.**

Please dress in appropriate athletic attire with comfortable, closed-toe shoes. All volunteers will receive a T-shirt.

**Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov
for more information and to sign up to Volunteer!**



Charlotte-Mecklenburg SENIOR GAMES & SILVER ARTS SCHEDULE

Event / Location	Date	Start Time	End Time	# Vols
Cycling - Charlotte Motor Speedway	4/17/18 <u>Raindate:</u> 4/24/18	9:00am	3:00pm	8
Golf Tournament – Skybrook Golf Club	4/19/18 <u>Raindate:</u> 4/26/18	8:30am	2:30pm	2
Track & Field Events - AG Middle School	4/21/18	8:30am	4:30pm	10
Softball Tournament (Women) Park Road Park	4/28/18	9:00am	5:00pm	4
Badminton (singles) - Marion Diehl Rec. Center	5/2/18	4:30pm	8:30pm	4
Badminton (doubles & mixed doubles) - Marion Diehl Rec. Center	5/3/18	4:30pm	8:30pm	4
Big Sat. - various field events – Marion Diehl Park	5/5/18	8:30am	4:30pm	12
Table tennis - Hawthorne Rec. Center	5/8/18	4:30pm	8:30pm	6
Archery - Mecklenburg Wildlife Club	5/9/18 <u>Raindate:</u> 5/15/18	11:30am	5:30pm	6
Swim Meet – Marion Diehl pool	5/11/18	9:00am	3:00pm	4
Bowling (doubles) - Park 10 lanes	5/14/18	9:30am	1:30pm	2
Bowling (mixed doubles) - Park 10 lanes	5/16/18	9:30am	1:30pm	2
Tennis, Racquetball & Basketball shooting - Jewish Comm'ty Center	5/18/18	9:30am	3:30pm	6
Bowling (singles) - Park 10 lanes	5/21/18	9:30am	1:30pm	2
Performing Arts showcase – Levine Senior Center	5/22/18	4:30pm	8:30pm	2
Horseshoes & Shuffleboard – Nevin Park	5/24/18	9:00am	3:00pm	6
3 on 3 Basketball (Men & Women) - Tom Sykes Rec. Center	5/30/18	5:00pm	9:00pm	4
Billiards - Rack 'em Billiards	5/31/18	11:30am	3:30pm	2
Pickle Ball singles, doubles & mixed doubles - Crews Road Rec. Center (Matthews)	6/2/18 <u>Overflow date:</u> 6/3/18	9:00am	5:00pm	6

VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT TIPS

We LOVE our Volunteers, and we want to make it EASY for you to come and help your community! Here are a few tips for you...THANK YOU for taking the time to support YOUR Park & Recreation Department!

YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- For one-day events or projects
- For helping with a program ONE time (Example: chaperoning ONE field trip for an after-school program)

YOU **MUST** REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- To be a Coach for any sport
- To assist with an ongoing program on a regular basis (Example: tutoring once a week; teaching ESL)

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov if you are not sure whether or not you need to enroll for a volunteer project, event or program. We are happy to assist you!

CONTACT US!

For more information on volunteering for any of our programs or projects, please contact:

Lori Saylor at 980-314-1045

Lori.Saylor@MeckNC.gov

Karen Howard at 980-314-1046

Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov

Janet Whitley at 980-314-1047

Janet.Whitley@MeckNC.gov

Pamela Thomas at 980-314-1059

Pamela.Thomas@MeckNC.gov



PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult who is at least 21 years old.

**Volunteers working in the Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Section must be at least 18 years old.*

Volunteer Services Program Mission Statement

1. To assist Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department staff in providing services needed to offer quality recreation and leisure services to the community by:

- Supporting direct services provided by salaried department staff.*
- Supplementing administrative, clerical, maintenance and other internal support service functions.*

2. To provide the Citizens of Mecklenburg County opportunities for Citizen Involvement and to increase their awareness of the Department's Responsibilities, Services and Results.